



United Nations  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification



G20 GLOBAL  
LAND INITIATIVE

## NEWSLETTER G20 GLOBAL LAND INITIATIVE / JANUARY 2026



### Trees in Cities - Urban Forests

Keeper of the Forests, Dr. Akira Miyawaki imagined, and brought to life, a revolutionary idea: tiny urban forests where competition for nourishment drives rapid, wild growth, full of wonder.

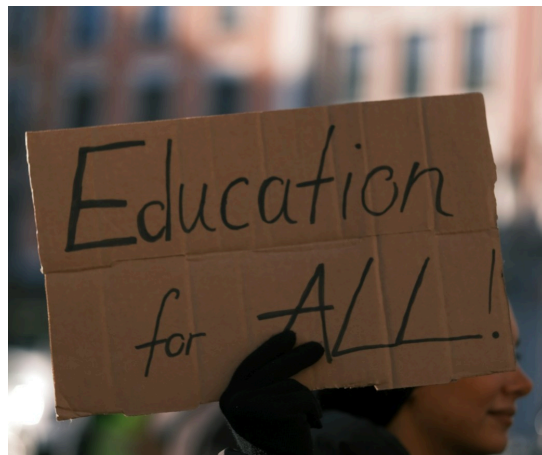
Inspired by Japan's sacred *Chinju-no-mori* groves, these pocket forests have quietly travelled the world, taking root across Asia, from Kerala and Navi Mumbai, in North America, through Oceania and even slipping into tiny urban corners of Paris and cities across Europe. If cities are our future, then perhaps these tiny forests are how the future catches its breath. Explore full story here.

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## Stories

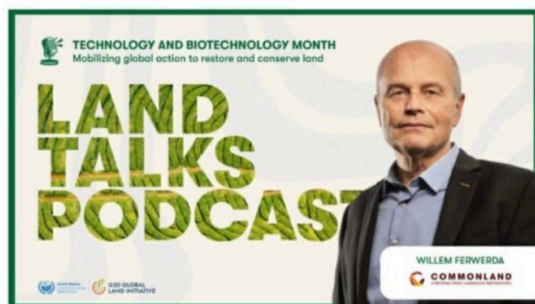
## **Celebrating The Power of Youth in Co-Creating Education**

Youth are not just the future of education but its co-creators. Learn how young people are shaping land restoration learning through G20 Global Land Initiative courses [here](#).



## **Why Land Restoration Starts Within**

Land restoration is not just about healing the planet but transforming how we think, act and invest. Discover Willem Ferwerda's powerful global vision [here](#).



## **How Invasive Seaweed Became a Sustainable Business Opportunity**

From beach erosion to bio-based solutions, learn how Andrés Bisonó León is transforming invasive seaweed into climate action and local opportunity [here](#).





## **What Is The Resource Nexus and How Can It Be Used To Help Save Land?**

This Land Talks episode reveals why the resource nexus may be one of the most powerful tools we have to restore land sustainably. Explore the episode [here](#).

## **Why Africa's Land Crisis Threatens Our Food Forever And How Can It Be Fixed**

Land degradation is not just an environmental issue but a social one. Susan Chomba shows how equity, soil health and food security are deeply linked. Listen to the podcast [here](#).



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# **Publications**

## **Small Island Developing States: Multi-Dimensional Challenges Require Integrated Approaches to Build Resilience**

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are home to about 74 million people living on small, remote islands. Long droughts are expanding, while cities, unsustainable farming and extractive industries are degrading fragile land, worsening climate and sea-level risks. This report uses UN and scientific data to show how their limited land is under growing pressure and discusses opportunities for smarter land and climate action. Read the brief [here](#) and the full report [here](#).

## **The Business Case for Investment in Rangeland Restoration**

This paper discusses how restoring and sustainably managing rangelands can deliver strong benefits for nature, livelihoods and economies. Drawing on global expertise, the report highlights the roles of governments, investors and local communities and outlines practical

ways to unlock finance, strengthen governance and scale up rangeland restoration worldwide. Read the brief [here](#) and the full report [here](#).

## **Opportunities for a Low-Emission Transformation of Ghana's Food Systems**

This report shows that Ghana's food systems are a major source of climate pollution, responsible for over half of national greenhouse gas emissions. It highlights practical solutions, from climate-smart cocoa farming and improved fire management to cleaner waste systems and healthier livestock that can reduce emissions while strengthening food security, livelihoods and sustainable development. Read the brief [here](#) and the full report [here](#).

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## **Meet the Interns:**



**Urwah Mohammad Jawaid**

Intern

Urwah Jawaid is an environment and sustainability enthusiast with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Engineering from Jadavpur University. Her work in the development sector across the western Himalayan region of Kashmir has deeply influenced her engagement with environmental and social narratives. She currently works as a writer and developer on independent projects, combining technical expertise with storytelling. Read more about Urwah [here](#).

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## **Vacancies**



## Events



### **2026 International Conference on Environmental Science and Sustainability - ICESS**

Dates: 16 - 18 January , 2026

Location: Sydney, Australia

Register: [here](#)

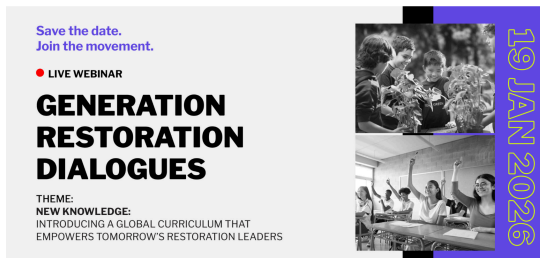


### **International Green Week (Grüne Woche)**

Dates: 16 - 25 January, 2026

Location: Berlin, Germany

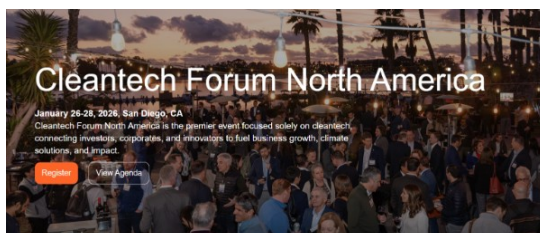
Register: [here](#)



### **Webinar: New Knowledge**

Dates: 19 January, 2026

Register [here](#).



### **Cleantech Forum North America**

Dates: 26-28 January, 2026

Location: San Diego, CA

Register [here](#).

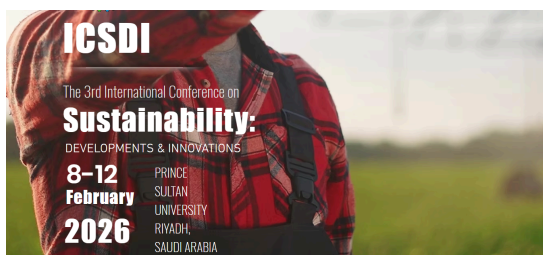


## **TREESCAPES 2026 – 1st South Asian Agroforestry & Trees Outside Forests Congress**

Dates: 5 - 7 Feb, 2026

Location: New Delhi, India

Register: [here](#)



## **ICSDI 2026 (International Conference on Sustainability)**

Dates: 8 - 12, Feb, 2026

Location: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Register: [here](#)



## **Webinar: Wetlands, Land & the Climate Nexus**

Dates: Feb 17, 2026

Register: [here](#)



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